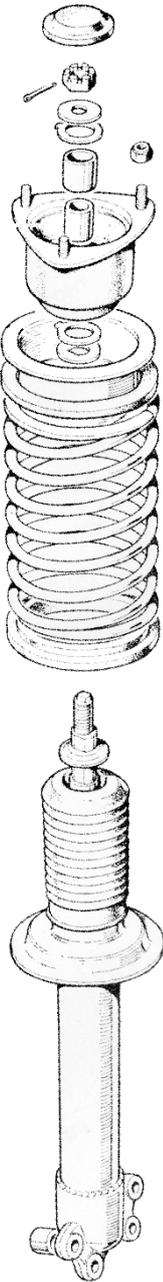


# Shock Absorber Inspection

Properly functioning shocks can help reduce the wear of more expensive suspension components such as springs, while assisting in the reduction of tyre wear and vibration damage to the body and chassis. They also help reduce driving fatigue. Here are some helpful tips for inspecting shocks.



## Visually Inspect Shocks for:

- 1) Broken upper or lower bushings - these can be replaced very easily and are considered a regular maintenance item on a shock absorber.
- 2) Improper installation - such as shock installed upside-down, or washers installed backwards.
- 3) Broken shock tube or dust cover.
- 4) Bent or dented tube.
- 5) Seizing - example: shock locked in a collapsed position.

## Heat Test Shocks:

- 1) Drive the car at moderate speeds for at least 15 minutes.
- 2) Within a few minutes of driving, touch each shock absorber carefully on its body below the dust cover, after first touching a nearby part of the chassis to establish a reference ambient temperature of the metal.
- 3) All shock absorbers should be warmer than the chassis. Suspect a failure in any shock absorber that is noticeably cooler.
- 4) To inspect for internal failure, remove and shake the suspected shock. Listen for the sound of metal parts rattling inside, which indicates the shock has an internal failure.

## Other Signs That Shocks May Need Replacing:

- 1) Uneven tyre wear - check tyre balance first to confirm the shock is the culprit.
- 2) Ride deterioration.
- 3) Excess vibration.
- 4) Uneven springs.

If you suspect a shock failure, but aren't certain, take your car to a suspension expert for a suspension inspection. Their technicians are trained to identify suspension problems and repair them to keep your car performing at its optimal level.

**ENVIRONMENTAL NOTE:** Please dispose of shocks responsibly. For storage and disposal information contact your local rubbish recycling department.

